

Fair Play.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

ST. GENEVIEVE, MISSOURI.

THE BALLOON BURSTED.

How the Most Experienced Aeronaut in the World Met His Death.

The coroner's inquiry into the death in Essex, England, of the famous aeronaut, Simmonds, has brought out a singular feature of the accident by which he lost his life and his two companions were dangerously injured, and indicates a new danger in ballooning. The evidence shows the accident, which followed an attempt to land, during which the anchor was caught in a tall, was caused by the bursting of the balloon.

The silk was unusually large and correspondingly heavy, but it was not ripped with one large rent, as would have been the case had it caught on a tree, but was found torn into several distinct pieces. Besides this the bursting was accompanied by a loud report, which was heard not only by those near by who were watching the balloon, but by persons considerable distance away, who knew nothing of the balloon until afterward.

Mr. Simmonds was an aeronaut of thirty years' experience, and this was his 19th ascension. When he landed from his last previous ascent a few days before an old lady said to him: "You men can't have much care for your lives," and he replied, "I have made 191 ascents and I don't feel very much fear now."

The balloon was the Cosmo, one of largest ever made, holding 62,000 cubic feet of gas, and capable of carrying 2,000 pounds. The basket was of iron wire netting, instead of wicker. He carried a thirty-pound grapnel and ninety-one feet of rope—too light an anchor and too short a rope, some experts say. He went up about the middle of the afternoon with W. L. Field and Mr. Meyers, the latter of South Kensington Natural History Museum, both of whom had made previous voyages. It was intended to cross the channel to France, but darkness coming on the party decided to descend for the night. The country was somewhat wooded, and the two or three attempts were made to land, but each time ballast had to be thrown out and the balloon sent up again. A field that seemed fairly clear was at last chosen and the grapnel let out. It dragged through a field of wheat and then caught in a large tree.

In an instant the huge balloon pulled up short, swung to the ground, and began to bump up and down, straining at the end of its tether. Simmonds pulled desperately on the valve rope and shouted to Field to help him. Meyers held a bag of ballast awaiting an order to throw it out. Three times in scarcely more than as many seconds the great balloon bounded up and down struggling frantically like some immense wild beast at the end of a long rope. Each time it sprang sixty feet in the air. As it rose the third time to that height there came a sudden report, the silk collapsed, and the car with the three young men in it fell to the ground. Men from the fields running up, found it battered into a shapeless wreck and its three late occupants.

Simmonds was killed instantly. He died in three hours without gaining consciousness. Mr. Field had a simple fracture of the right thigh and a compound fracture of the left leg, besides innumerable bruises. Mr. Meyers had internal injuries, and was covered with bruises and cuts.

Aeronauts can give no satisfactory explanation of the bursting of the balloon. It was undoubtedly caused by the sudden stoppage, but why the strain of a quantity of gas should become excessive that amount has not been explained. It is said that there is one similar case on record.

Simmonds, during his life as a balloonist, had made ascents in India, Egypt and the United States, as well as in all parts of Europe, and it is said that no man in the world had had more experience in aerial navigation than he. In 1875 he ascended with De Groof, the Belgian "flying man," who was to descend from a great height by means of a parachute. Something went wrong and the Belgian was dashed to pieces. In 1882, with Colonel Brine, of the Royal Engineers, he started to cross to France, but dropped into the channel, and after a perilous time was rescued by a steamer. A few months later Sir Claude de Guespigny, ascending with him, was thrown out and badly hurt. Simmonds took to the car, and after an exciting time made a safe descent. The next year Sir Claude de Guespigny, ascending with him, was thrown out and badly hurt. Simmonds took to the car, and after an exciting time made a safe descent. The next year Sir Claude de Guespigny, ascending with him, was thrown out and badly hurt. Simmonds took to the car, and after an exciting time made a safe descent.

There had been quite an excitement in the camp when the letter had come announcing that the little woman and her children were on the way. "You're just a woman's word," said Dick Gowsley. "I don't see how you can be so sure."

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IN A YEAR.

HAT changes have come to us in a year!

How many have answered the call of death's angel—whose whisper we hear?

With a shock of surprise on the face of the living?

How many who loved us have changed in a year?

How many close friendships are broken in a year?

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AT CAMP NOGOOD.

The Story of One Christmas in a Mining Camp.

(Written for this paper.)

ANY one who has heard of the little miner, Dick Gowsley, who was killed in the explosion at the mine at Camp Nogood, will be interested to know what happened to the other miners.

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FARM AND FIRESIDE.

It is a matter of economy as well as of necessity to properly mate horses that have to work side by side.

—Grooming a boy on the farm is a mighty good foundation preparation of him for any honorable business.

—An acre of land devoted to small fruits will sometimes give a larger return than five acres devoted to grain.

—White oak shingles are recommended as best in which to make cucumber pickles, and next to that stone ware.

—All fall-planted trees, vines, etc., must be banked with earth or a shading of straw manure on the approach of winter to prevent heaving.

—When a man comes half a mile to borrow a shoe or a fork, you may depend on his coming some day to borrow money, but never coming to pay it back.

—Oyster Omelet: Beat six eggs to light froth. Add half a cup of cream, salt and pepper. Pour into a frying-pan, with a tablespoonful of butter and a dash of lemon juice. Fry a light brown. Double over and send to the table immediately.

—Saratoga Brown Bread: Two cups of Indian meal, three cups of flour, or Graham meal, one cup molasses, one and one-half cups sugar, one and one-half cups milk, one and one-half cups butter, one and one-half cups raisins, one and one-half cups currants, one and one-half cups cranberries, one and one-half cups apples, one and one-half cups peaches, one and one-half cups cherries, one and one-half cups plums, one and one-half cups pears, one and one-half cups quinces, one and one-half cups grapes